

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /060 W

----- 115769

R 091522Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7508

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O.: 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJ: STUDENT AGITATION AGAIN

REF: LAGOS 11164

1. ALREADY PREOCCUPIED WITH UDOJI DEMANDYNIN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS (LAGOS 168 AND 171) AND WITH STRIKE BY LONG-DISTANCE TRUCK DRIVERS (LAGOS 156 AND 243), FMG FACING THIRD CHALLENGE FROM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES.

2. ON RETURN FROM CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS JANUARY 6, STUDENTS' UNIONS AT UNIVERSITITES OF LAGOS AND IBADAN DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO BOYCOTT CLASSES UNTIL FMG AGREES RELEASE APER AKU, DETAINED SINCE AUGUST FOR ATTACKS ON BENUE-PLATEAU STATE GOVERNOR GONWALK, AND AIR IYARE, ARRESTED IN LATE NOVEMBER FOR CHARGES AGAINST GOWON AND MIND-WESTERN STATE GOVERNOR OGBEMUDIA. UNIVERSITY OF BENIN STUDENTS REPORTEDLY JOINED BOYCOTT ACTION JANUARY 8, DESPITE FACT THAT NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NUNS) HAS PUBLICLY DISAVOWED BOYCOTT AND URGED STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASS. ADDITIONAL SIGN SOME STUDENT DISUNITY EVIDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, WHERE "COMMITTEE OF

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ELDER STATESMEN" AMONG STUDENTS ALSO URGED END TO BOYCOTT.

DEMONSTRATIONS AT AFFECTED CAMPUSES PEACEFUL THROUGHT JANUARY 8,
AS HAD GENERALLY BEEN CASE WITH PRE-CHRISTMAS AGITATION FOR
RELEASE OF AKU (REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: UNLESS STUDENT ACTION TURNS VIOLENT OR SPREADS
TO INCLUDE BALANCE OF 20-ODD UNIVERSITY-LEVEL CAMPUSES, BOYCOTT
MOST LIKELY SIMPLY TO BE IGNORED BY FMG FOR TIME BEING AS IT
DEALS WITH MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS. GOWON HAS SEVERAL TIMES
SAID THAT REGIME WILL NOT BE SWAYED BY EXTERNAL PRESSURES IN
ITS DECISIONS REGARDING DETAINEES, AND STUDENT ACTION THUS
UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE ITS DECLARED OBJECTIVES.
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